Cool Data Access—Yes, There’s an App for That!

Technical Tools That Provide Access to Labor Market Information

Suzan Reagan, LMI Webmaster and Economist

The decade for data delivery is here! Detailed statistics are more readily available than ever via the Internet, but finding information at the source is the key. Many of the traditional sources for labor market information are now adding useful tools and services to their websites to help data users access timely information on the go.

One of the neat services available is RSS feeds. (RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication.) Many websites feature a button that allows you to subscribe to the RSS feed within your browser. Internet Explorer includes the feed feature as part of the Favorites tab. With a list of RSS feeds, you will immediately know when updates are available without having to check each individual webpage. You can also use one of the many feed aggregators or news readers available to subscribe. The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions has an RSS feed at http://www.dws.state.nm.us/LMI/dws-LMI.xml. The true labor market information connoisseur can access Bureau of Labor Statistics news feeds at http://www.bls.gov/feeds. If you find RSS feeds useful and want worldwide coverage, try the one available from Reuters on Global Markets at http://feeds.reuters.com/reuters/globalmarketsNews.

If checking your e-mail inbox is a must every morning, you can stay one step ahead in the information game by having a message delivered directly to you when new data are available. Many sites allow you to subscribe to these e-mail notifications. Two notable providers of e-mail news release subscription services are the Census Bureau at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/subscriber/new and the Bureau of Economic Analysis at http://www.bea.gov/_subscribe/index_vocus.htm. These sites display detailed privacy policy information that you should read before subscribing.

Mobile applications can be used to access data on the move when you need it. This, of course, follows some of the latest technical trends. Applications now allow cell phone users to extract raw data and even create maps and charts. Most applications are really in the beginning stages of making labor market information extraordinarily usable anywhere. Expect big improvements in this area over the next few years. Many websites are now also designed to be more easily viewed by a tablet or mobile phone with web service. The following are several useful sites for finding mobile data:

- DOL Mobile Applications: http://www.dol.gov/dol/apps/

---

Workforce Information Tip

How can I find which occupations are declining in New Mexico?

2. Click on Labor Market Facts on the left-hand menu.
3. Click on What will be the slowest growing occupations (by percentage change of jobs) in an area? in the center section.
4. The next screen allows you to select a desired geography. Choose state, metropolitan area, or workforce region for your area type (and not counties) because occupational data are available only at these three levels. Click the Continue button after selecting the geography of interest.

You now have a list of occupations with declining growth. In step three above, clicking on the related questions What occupations are predicted to have the least future job openings in an area? or What occupations have the lowest employment in an area? would yield similar results.